Forestry projects in Orissa

3557. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Centrally Sponsored Forestry Projects being implemented in Orissa;

(b) the Central assistance released to the State under those schemes during the Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plans, so far; and

(c) the details of achievement made under the schemes in various specific area of that State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Ministry of Environment and Forests being implemented in Orissa are as under:

(i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS)

(ii) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme (AOFFP)

(iii) Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce (including medicinal plants) Scheme (NTFP)

(iv) Association of Scheduled Tribe and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme (ASTRP)

(b) and (c) Funds provided to Orissa during VIII and IX Plan are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

8th Plan		9th Plan	
Sanction	**Release**	**Sanction**	**Release**
2915.03	1806.05	5019.70	2129.74
			(upto 20.8.01)

An area of 44430 ha. and 30503 ha. has been covered during 8th & 9th Five Year Plan respectively.

Conversion of M.P. Forest Villages into Revenue Villages

†3558. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M.P. Government has sent any proposal to Government for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what action Government are going to take on this proposal; and

(c) whether Government intend not to approve the proposal; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. While the Central Government agrees with the proposal as a policy, it is necessary to ensure that the conversion of forest villages into revenue villages is done in such a manner that its impact on the surrounding forest areas is minimal. Therefore, the Central Government has constituted two Committees, one each for the State of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, with the following terms of reference:-

(i) To undertake the indepth examination of the on-ground situation of the Forest Villages where the renewal of pattas has been proposed by the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) To study and examine critically the nature and extent of encroachment done by the patta holders.

(iii) To assess the problems and hardships being faced by the patta holders of the forest villages *vis-a-vis* patta holders in revenue villages.

(iv) To examine the possibility of eviction of encroachers while renewing the pattas in forest villages.

(v) The Committees will submit their reports within a period of six months.

However, to obviate the hardship of the local people, as an interim measure, the Central Government has permitted State Government to issue 30,617 pattas in 1346 villages spread over 1.21 lakh ha. forest land for a period of 15 years.

Forest Conservation Schemes in H.P.

3559. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of schemes taken up by Government during the last three years for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment in Himachal Pradesh; and